

Appl. No. 10/797,237
Atty. Docket No. 9177
Reply to Office Action of November 15, 2007
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 10 – 13 are rejected as anticipated by 3,906,580 (Smith) and as obvious over 6,260,226 (Specht) in view of 2002/0162573 (Fernandez) and further view of 558,074 (Hussey). These patents collectively teach mops or cleaning implements having external locking mechanisms, such as a wing nut (Smith) or clip (Specht). The rejecting references, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest a mop having a locking mechanism on one side of the head and a removable tool on the other side of the head.

Claim 10, as amended hereunder requires the head to be elongate and to have a removable tool on one side with a locking mechanism on the opposite side. Basis is found in Fig. 12. No new matter is added.

The claimed arrangement provides the benefit that when the cleaning implement is locked into position using the locking mechanism, the handle is displaced away from the removable tool. By displacing the handle away from the tool, the user has convenient access to remove the tool and use it for a task. The user also has convenient access to replace the tool on the head when the task is completed.

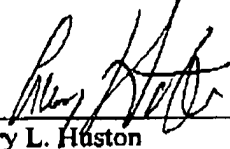
Such benefit does not occur with the prior art. The Smith et al. (3,906,580) locking mechanism is centered on the head. The Specht (6,260,226) clip 58 is not taught to be disposed in any particular relation to a removable tool. Fernandez (2002/0162573) simply fails to teach a removable tool, and cannot address the inconvenience caused by a handle locked in the wrong position. Collectively, the prior art neither suggests a way to achieve the benefits of nor suggests the solution provided by the claimed invention.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment and to reconsider and allow claims 10 – 13, as the only claims which remain in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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